

# Mayor Matthew A. Pacifico

Monthly Update - October 2017



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October means Halloween in the City of Altoona. Trick-or-Treating within the City will be Thursday, October 26th from 6:00PM - 8:30PM.

Let's do our part to make sure that Trick-or-Treating is safe for all residents.

The organization Safe Kids Worldwide has provided a number of safety tips for Halloween and Trick-or-Treating:

**Drivers:** Please use extra caution during Trick-or-Treat hours. Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Take time and look for kids at intersections, on medians, and curbs. Exit and enter driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.

**Trick-or-Treaters:** Ensure you are maintaining appropriate pedestrian safety measures. Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Walk on sidewalks or paths whenever possible, and stay out of the roadway. Be vigilant of cars and do not dart out into the street. Choose a light colored costume to be visible to cars, or ensure you have reflective tape or stickers on your bags or costumes for safety reasons.

For more safety tips, please visit: <https://www.safekids.org/tip/halloween-safety-tips>



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## Altoona Officially Exits Act 47

The City of Altoona officially exited Act 47, the state's program for distressed communities, on September 13th. With its exit, Altoona becomes the quickest city to exit Act 47.

Altoona's exit was a culmination of hard work, dedication, and fiscal responsibility from city staff and officials over the last five years. With its exit from Act 47, the city has demonstrated that it is committed to fiscal stability and future economic development for the sustainment of the community for years to come.

To commemorate Altoona's official exit from Act 47, Secretary Dennis Davin, of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), was on-hand to sign the official exit document.



**From Left to Right:** DCED Secretary Dennis Davin speaking at the Act 47 exit ceremony; DCED Secretary Davin, DCED Deputy Secretary for Community Affairs and Development Richard Vilello, and Mayor Matt Pacifico at the official signing exiting Altoona from Act 47; and Altoona officials and DCED representatives at the official ceremony.

## PA Automated Vehicle Summit

Mayor Matt Pacifico recently attended the Pennsylvania Automated Vehicle Summit in State College, PA.

The purpose of the Summit was to bring together regional, county, and local stakeholders of planning, policy, and workforce to shape and collaborate the HAV strategic plan and future legislation, raise awareness of long-term planning considerations, and begin preparations for the needs of tomorrow's workforce.





## Blight Task Force Holds First Meeting

The City of Altoona held its first Blight Task Force meeting on September 27th at City Hall. The 18-member group, made up of local community advocates, housing and government officials, began the process of creating a comprehensive plan to address issues of blight throughout the city.

During its first meeting, the Blight Task Force began thoroughly examining the current scope of issues created by blight. This sets the stage for what the group's comprehensive plan will look to address.

The Blight Task Force agreed a top goal is achieving voluntary compliance by owners of blighted properties but where that doesn't happen, appropriate enforcement actions should be taken to address chronically blighted properties like the eighteen properties identified by the Codes office and discussed during this morning's meeting.

Additionally, one of the top priorities of the task force is to assess how the community has been using existing blight fighting tools – including a property maintenance code, rental property registration, and a home repair program – as well as to identify other tools and strategies that can be used to address chronically blighted properties.

The task force will meet three more times over the next few months and is expected to release their final report to the public in the Spring of 2018.

### **Altoona's Blight Task Force Members**

- Joe Hurd, President/Chief Executive Officer, Blair County Chamber of Commerce
- Christopher Cook, Local Resident
- Mitchell Cooper, Local Resident
- Mayor Matt Pacifico, Mayor, City of Altoona (CoA)
- Rebecca Brown, Manager, Codes & Inspections, CoA

- Marla Marcinko, City Manager, CoA
  - Rob Dennis, Codes Officer, CoA
  - Jerry Murrery, President/Chief Executive Officer, UPMC Altoona
  - Lori Bechtel-Wherry, Chancellor and Dean, Penn State Altoona
  - Sergio Carmona, Executive Director, Blair Community Action Agency
  - Shawna Hoover , Executive Coordinator, Operation Our Town
  - Michelle Peterson, Executive Director, Improved Dwellings for Altoona, Inc. (IDA)
  - Cheryl Johns, Executive Director, Altoona Housing Authority
  - Mary Johnson, CDBG Manager, CoA
  - Steve McKnight President/Chief Executive Officer, ABCD Corp.
  - Robert Lynn, ReMax Realtor
  - Pam Mitchell, Landlord Representative
  - Lee Slusser, Director, Department of Community Development, CoA
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## Senate Blight Roundtable

Members of the Pennsylvania Senate Majority Policy Committee held a Roundtable discussion on blight and community revitalization on September 6th. The meeting was held at the Hollidaysburg Public Library and included officials and experts on blight and revitalization from Blair and the surrounding counties.

The purpose of the Roundtable was to discuss what is currently being done to address blight in the communities, and whether legislation could be developed to address any holes or problems city and county officials were encountering regarding codes enforcement and blight.

Several officials from the Altoona, including Mayor Pacifico, City Manager Marla Marcinko, Codes Manager Rebecca Brown, and Assistant City Solicitor Dan Stants participated in the Roundtable. Altoona provided several significant ideas to the Senators on how the law could be improved to allow the cities to more effectively and efficiently address blighted properties for the communities betterment.





City, county, and state officials discussing blight and revitalization during the Pennsylvania Senate Majority Policy Committee Roundtable at the Hollidaysburg Public Library.

## Horseshoe Curve designated American Water Landmark



On September 25th, Mayor Pacifico had the distinct privilege of accepting the award designating the Altoona reservoir system at the Horseshoe Curve, as a American Water Landmark. This award is given out by the American Water Works Association, and it is not a designation that they give out very easily. To date, there are only two other water systems in Pennsylvania that have achieved landmark status.

To learn more about the Horseshoe Curve reservoir and why it was selected as an American Landmark, please click the video link below. It shows the ingenuity and forethought that went into designing the constructing this

amazing reservoir system over 100 years ago. The fact that it has stood the test of time really speaks of the craftsmanship of work of that era.

### **Altoona Reservoir System - The Making of An American Landmark**

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## **City Council Meeting - October**

City Council will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 11th at 7:00PM. The meeting will take place at City Council Chambers, 1320 Washington Avenue.

To view the full schedule for City Council meetings for the remainder of the year, [click here](#):

### **2017 City Council Meetings**

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## **Ribbon Cutting for Martin's New Food & Beverage Aisle**

Mayor Pacifico attended the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the new food and beverage aisle located within Martin's Foods on Chestnut Avenue.

The new food and beverage center will provide a number of prepared food options, both hot and cold; a variety of new beverages; and dine-in options.



**From Left to Right:** Mayor Pacifico, Store Manager Dave Robbins, Department Lead Teah Schraff, and District Director Sepi Burket.

## ZombieTown USA



BEWARE - ZombieTown USA is right around the corner! The annual invasion will take place in Downtown Altoona October 6 - 7, 2017.

ZombieTown USA is a collaboration between our local businesses, non-profits, city leaders, and volunteers. The goal is to celebrate and promote the diverse community, support local arts, culture, and the local economy. ZombieTown USA is for the community, by our community.

**Friday's (October 6) Zombie Festivities will take place at the Railroaders Memorial Museum and include:**

- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Ghost Hunt
- Music by PennterA (PanterA Tribute Band) and Small Town Horror Show.

**Saturday's (October 7) Zombie Festivities will take place around Heritage Plaza and include:**

- Zombie Survival Run (**Must register to participate.** Register at [www.zombietownusa.com](http://www.zombietownusa.com)). **Proceeds from the Run go to benefit the Victory Therapeutic Horsemanship to provide equine therapy for our veterans in Central Pennsylvania.**
- Altoona's First Halloween Parade - Parade begins at 4:00 P.M.
- Vendors
- Art exhibits
- Zombie costume contests
- Food Bank collection drive
- Kids Zone
- Altoona Mirror will present music by Agent Smith "Alice in Chains" Tribute
- Outdoor nighttime showing of the original "Night of the Living Dead."

Additionally, ZombieTown USA will once again host students from horror and special effect make-up legend Tom Savini's School of Special Make-Up Effects in Pittsburgh. They will be on hand to provide realistic zombies throughout the event.

Please visit ZombieTown USA's website for more information and to keep up-to-date on new events being added:

**ZombieTown USA**

## **Fall Taste of Downtown Altoona**

The 2nd Annual Fall Taste of Downtown Altoona will take place Sunday, October 15, 2017. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. and will feature special guest, singer Josh Gallagher. Participants can pick up wristbands at the Discovery Center and proceed on a walking tour of downtown.

Participating restaurants include: Tac-o the Town, Dickey's Barbecue Pit, Zoë Cafe, The Clay Cup, Club Car Cafe, Mountain View Farms & Sausage Co., Wingate, Railroad City Brewery, Salsa's Food Truck, Two 20 Studios, 1402 1/2 Bakery & Lunchroom, and Gary's Groceries.

Tickets at \$30 and can be purchased at the following locations:

- ACT-1213 12th Street



- Southern Allegheny Museum of Arts-1210 11th Street
- Blair County Arts Foundation-1212 12th Avenue
- Altoona Area Public Library-1600 5th Avenue
- Blair Concert Chorale-1212 12th Avenue
- Allegheny Ballet Company- 1415 11th Avenue #2
- Altoona Symphony Orchestra-1331 12th Avenue #107

Proceeds from the Blair County Arts Foundation, Altoona Community Theatre, Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Allegheny Ballet Co., Altoona Symphony Orchestra, Altoona Public Library, and Blair Concert Chorale.



**Second Annual**

# *Fall Taste of* **DOWNTOWN ALTOONA** *with Josh Gallagher*

**Sunday, October 15, 2017**  
Doors open @ 3:30pm • \$30 per ticket

- Food samplings at all participating restaurants
- Receive your wristband at the opening reception to be held at the Heritage Discover Center at 3:30pm w/ complimentary beer, beverages, and appetizers plus meet and greet w/ Josh Gallagher
- **Participating Restaurants:**  
Tac-o the Town • Dickey's Barbecue Pit • Zoë Café  
The Clay Cup • Club Car Cafe • Salsa's Food Truck  
Mountain View Sausage Co. • Two 20 Studios  
Wingate • Railroad City Brewery • Gary's Groceries  
1402 ½ Bakery & Lunchroom
- **Proceeds Benefit:**  
Blair County Arts Foundation • Altoona Community Theatre • Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art  
Allegheny Ballet Co. • Altoona Symphony Orchestra  
Altoona Public Library • Blair Concert Chorale

*Menu*

**Tac-o the Town**  
Taco Salad

**Dickey's Barbecue Pit**  
Beef Brisket Smokestack  
Asiago Creamed Spinach  
Baked Potato Casserole

**Zoë Cafe**  
Walking Crepes  
Acai Bowls

**The Clay Cup**  
Pumpkin Chai  
London Fog  
Stowaway

**Club Car Cafe**  
Pumpkin Latte  
PSU Bakery Cookies

**Mountain View Farms & Sausage Co.**  
Farm Raised, Handmade  
Hot & Sweet Sausage w/  
Grilled Peppers & Onions

**Wingate**  
Soft Pretzel Bites  
w/Beer Cheese Sauce

**Railroad City Brewery**  
On Tap Beer Tasting

**Salsa's Food Truck**  
Street Taco w/choice  
of Steak, Chicken, or  
Pastor

**Two 20 Studios**  
Wine Tasting

**1402 ½ Bakery & Lunchroom**  
Sneak Peek of Bakery  
Renovation w/Sampling  
of Baked Goods

**Gary's Groceries**  
Meatball Sliders  
Hoagie Samplers  
Meat/Cheese Platters  
Bottled Water & Soda

Design by  
**JG** J Grant Design  
Johnstown, PA | [www.jgrantdesign.com](http://www.jgrantdesign.com)

## Accepting Applications for City's Talent Bank

Calling all residents! The City of Altoona is currently accepting applications for the City's various committees and boards.

To view the various committees and boards available to serve on, and to download an application, please visit [www.altoonapa.gov](http://www.altoonapa.gov) or click on the text box below.

Applications are due by Friday, December 1st and can be submitted to the City Clerk's Office, Altoona City Hall, 1301 12th Street, Suite, Altoona, PA 16601, phone #949-2486, fax #949-2411, email: [cityclerk@altoonapa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@altoonapa.gov).

## Talent Bank Application

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**Mayor Matthew A. Pacifico**

SHARE

TWEET

FORWARD

**Altoona City Hall**  
**1301 Twelfth Street, Suite 200**  
**Altoona, PA 16601**  
**[mpacifico@altoonapa.gov](mailto:mpacifico@altoonapa.gov)**

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